

August 11, 2014

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, August 11, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Rob Clarke, Tracey Cottman,
Diane Downing, George Tasker, Dale Trotter
City Attorney William Hudson
City Manager Russell W. Blake
City Clerk Carol L. Sullivan

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Cottman, Downing passed), to approve the minutes of July 1, 2014.

Review Bills:

In a motion (Trotter, Clarke passed), the bills presented to be paid. (Copy of bill list attached to original minutes).

Police Chief Kelvin Sewell to introduce new Police Officer Tanya Barnes:

Chief Sewell introduced Officer Tanya Barnes. He stated that she had worked at UMES Police Department for the past six months. Prior to that, she worked at Baltimore City Police Eastern District. She is married and has two boys.

Officer Barnes stated she was happy to be here.

Mayor Morrison swore in Officer Barnes as a new police officer.

Mr. Charles McClenahan and representatives of Landmark Insurance Company to present certificate from Chesapeake Insurance Associates recognizing the City's recent success in reducing Workers Comp injuries:

Mr. Ryan McClenahan stated that it is a major achievement to receive this "Safety Award" for maintaining a loss ratio of only 23.82% for three consecutive years. Mr. McClenahan presented the Mayor and Council with a plaque with a certificate.

Mayor Morrison thanked Mr. McClenahan for the plaque and special recognition of this accomplishment.

Mr. Mike Shannon to discuss upcoming Boat Docking Contest (September 13, 2014):

Mr. Shannon was not able to attend the meeting.

Authorize City Manager to submit grant application for Community Parks and Playgrounds funding (D.N.R.):

City Manager Blake stated that the C.P. & P. program provides grant funds to improve our parks and playgrounds. He stated that we have previously received C.P. & P. funds for Cypress Park including the stage and concession building. He proposed requesting funds for the golf course to pave #2 and #9 cart paths; to resurface Cypress Park tennis courts; and to paint the grandstand building at the Fairgrounds.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to authorize City Manager to apply for the Community Parks and Playgrounds grant.

Discuss proposal from Bozman Paving Company to resurface Eighth Street between Walnut and Cedar Streets:

Mayor Morrison asked if this could be placed on hold for a while. He stated that the railroad crossings on Clarke Ave, Second Street, and 8th Street are in terrible shape and should be resurfaced. He said that he understands that the Eastern Shore Railroad would supply the labor and manpower to remove old asphalt. At his time they do not have the funds to resurface the area.

Councilman Clarke asked about who is responsible for the right-of-way and stated that he doesn't think the City should resurface the crossings because in the future they would look to the City to continue the upkeep.

Mayor Morrison stated that the railroad is actually responsible for the paving of the right-of-way, but they do not have the funds available.

Councilwoman Cottman asked how much it would cost to resurface the crossings.

City Manager Blake stated that Superintendent Bill East and he will meet with Eastern Shore Railroad representative and Bozman Paving on Wednesday to get an estimate. He added that the City could assist the Eastern Shore Railroad to complete the preparation for the resurfacing.

In a motion (Tasker, Cottman passed) to put the Eighth Street paving project on hold for now and resurface the three railroad crossings.

Approve partial abatement of taxes for properties on Taylor Avenue and others:

City Manager Blake presented a memo recommending that the taxes on certain real properties be abated (copy of memo attached to original minutes).

In a motion (Tasker, Cottman passed) abate the taxes as requested in Memo.

Discuss proposed sponsorship of "Cruzin the Coast" motorcycle tour during Delmarva Bike Week (September 11-14, 2014):

After some discussion, it was decided to become a \$1,000 "Gold Sponsor"; the City would donate \$500 and the other \$500 would be donated by the Downtown Pocomoke Association and Riverside Grill.

In a motion (Trotter, Tasker passed) to donate \$500 plus the cost of an ad.

Authorize G.M.B. Engineers to prepare and submit application to U.S.D.A. for major repairs to the City's main sewage pumping station on Clarke Avenue:

Mr. Pete Bozick, G.M.B. Engineers, explained that the Clarke Avenue Pump Station is the primary pumping station for the City. It has two installed pumps each rated at 100 horsepower to pump all wastewater to the wastewater treatment plant. He stated that the station has concrete cracks in the wet well structure and the pumps should be replaced. GMB proposes to examine the feasibility of alternatives to rehabilitate the pump station by restoring the existing concrete wet well, repairing the major cracks, and installing a waterproof membrane or sealer on the concrete walls. The existing pumps will be replaced with more efficient pumps and variable frequency drives. They will develop cost estimates for construction and

operations/maintenance;and they will prepare and submit the application for financing the project to USDA.

In a motion (Cottman, Trotter passed) to accept G.M.B. Engineers proposal to prepare and submit an application to U.S.D.A. to finance major repairs to the main pumping station on Clarke Ave., and to waive the bidding process.

Review proposal from Scott Fykes for construction of new table for City Council Chamber:

Mayor Morrison stated that Scott Fykes' proposal to construct a new table for the Council Chambers would cost \$8,762; it is a little over budget. He stated that the table would be ready for the October meeting.

In a motion (Tasker, Downing passed) to move forward with the construction process of the table in the amount of \$8,762, and to waive the normal bidding process.

Comments from the Audience:

Mr. Scott Holland, 305 15th Street, asked if the City could install basketball courts in town. He stated that he was new to Pocomoke, and he had asked several people if there was a public basketball court and they said no.

City Manager Blake stated that the City had entered into a partnership with the Worcester County Board of Education to build two regulations public basketball courts in the middle of town on the Pocomoke Middle School property, that the City maintains the courts.

Ms. Kim Jackson, owner of Market Street Boutique, asked for help in relocating her existing downtown business elsewhere in downtown. She asked if there was something the City could do to help her in that process. She had previously received a matching loan from the City to start her new business at 147 Market Street (Market Street Boutique).

Mayor and Council Items:

Councilwoman Downing stated that there would be a retirement banquet for County Commissioner Purnell and invited the Mayor and Council to attend on September 20.

Councilman Clarke asked about the status of the traffic problems on Rt. 13 bridge during the weekend. There have been four accidents just this past weekend.

City Manager Blake stated that he would contact Donnie Drewer again concerning this issue soon.

Mayor Morrison stated that there had been a police car parked there, but now it is gone. We should put the car back as it did slow people down.

Councilman Tasker agreed that the police car slowed the traffic down.

Councilman Trotter asked about a yellow strobe light for the drawbridge to slow traffic down when pedestrians are crossing the street.

Mayor Morrison asked the status on Pocomoke Heights water problem.

City Manager Blake stated that the engineer has recommended two more locations for the automatic flushers; one on Payne Avenue near Market Street and the second one at 15th Street and Linden Avenue, if possible. He said they expect to have the next one installed soon. The newest installation, at Dorchester and Somerset Ave., seems to be working well.

Following a motion by Councilwoman Cottman and seconded by Councilwoman Downing the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 8:44 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

Present were Mayor Morrison, Councilman Clarke, Councilman Trotter, Councilwoman Cottman, Councilwoman Downing, Councilman Tasker, City Manager Blake, City Attorney Hudson, and City Clerk Carol Sullivan. Items discussed were personnel issues. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:49 P.M.

Approved:_____

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk